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Wife Fearful as Mate Hunts Kin in Vietnam

BY WALTER AMES

Times Staff Writer

As Don Dawson, 28, prowls the jungles and villages of Vietnam looking for his missing brother, his family waits in a small Costa Mesa apartment—and worries. "I miss him. I'm worried about him. I'm scared," said slender, dark-haired Mrs. Jean Dawson, 27, on Friday. "When he found out Dan was missing, he said, 'I've got to go to Vietnam to find my brother. I won't be able to rest peaceably until I find out what happened.'"

Came From Oregon

With Don in Vietnam, Mrs. Dawson left her home in Astoria, Ore., and moved in with two of her four children at the apartment of Don's mother, Mrs. Marguerite M. Dawson, 45, 176 Cecil Pl., Costa Mesa.

Jean Dawson, who works as a waitress to support her children, is the mother of George, 3, by her marriage to Don. From a previous marriage, she has Thelma, 5, Cheryl, 8, and Curtis, 9.

"All the children miss him," Mrs. Dawson said.

"He's the only father they know."

The elder Mrs. Dawson, a widow whose only children are Don and Dan, works as a secretary by day and babysits at night while her daughter-in-law works.

Don's mother doesn't complain of her burdens. Instead, she praises her daughter-in-law as "just wonderful and so understanding."

The missing son, Dan, probably is dead, according to a letter Don wrote Jan. 18. He said:

"The Viet Cong say they will bring Dan's remains to the church this week. I should be starting home by the end of this month."

But Mrs. Jean Dawson said she heard the Viet Cong reneged, apparently because they now consider Don a possible CIA agent.

"I don't know when he's coming home now," the young woman said.